

CLEAN-UP

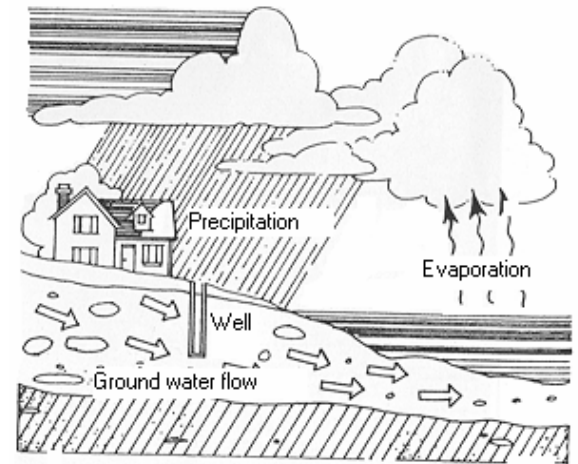
All clothing, sheets and fabrics should be rinsed to remove as much mud as possible then washed with bleach or other types of disinfectants to kill bacteria. Upholstered furniture and bedding may be impossible to salvage if it has been thoroughly soaked. Rugs and carpets may be cleaned with a vacuum cleaner and steam cleaned. Some carpets and/or rugs may not be salvageable.



For further information contact:

**McHenry County Department of Health
Division of Environmental Health
2200 N Seminary Ave
Woodstock, IL 60098
815-334-4585
www.mcdh.info**

After The Flood



MCDH

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Flooding may not only be destructive to property, but poses potential safety and health hazards to all persons involved.

Flood water can contain disease causing organisms and the following pre-cautions should be observed to minimize health risks.

The Health Department recommends the following:

PERSONAL HYGIENE

Wash your hands after being in contact with floodwater or items that have been contaminated by floodwater. It is especially important to wash hands with warm water and soap before handling food items and to thoroughly clean under the fingernails.

WATER SUPPLIES

A water supply which has been subjected to flooding must be considered contaminated and unsafe to drink. Obtain bottled water for human consumption and contact the Health Department for instructions on how to properly disinfect your water supply. The Health Department will test private water supplies for bacterial contamination upon homeowner request.

SAFETY

- Let the house air out to remove foul odors or escaped gas.
- Do not smoke or use open flame until you are sure that it is safe to do so.
- Do not pump out basements too soon or too fast. Structural damage to wall and floors may occur from pumping out water too soon or too fast.
- The house should be clean and dry before any attempt is made to live in it.
- Outside electrical and gas connections should be checked by the appropriate utility company. Interior connections should be checked by a licensed electrician or plumber.
- Take precautions to prevent electrical shock when water is present.

REDUCING MOISTURE

Dehumidifiers will reduce the moisture especially in closed-up areas. It is important to eliminate excessive moisture to prevent mold and mildew.

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

Flooded individual onsite wastewater disposal systems will not function properly. Septic systems should not be used until the flood waters subside.

FOOD ITEMS

Any of the following food items should be destroyed if they have come in contact with flood waters:

- Fresh meats and poultry items
- Fruits and vegetables
- Prepared and processed foods
- Medicines and cosmetics in cardboard containers
- Crimped, capped bottles and screw top glass containers, including canned food in glass jars.

Food items in sealed metal cans are safe for use but the containers should be carefully cleaned and disinfected before opening. Inspect cans and destroy any which bulge or leak. If labels come off cans, re-label cans with a marker or code cans. Metal cans may be disinfected using one (1) tablespoon of ordinary laundry bleach to one (1) gallon of water. Immerse the cans in the chlorine solution for two (2) minutes and rinse the cans in clean water to remove residual chlorine.

